

generally parallel to the longitudinal axis of the absorbent article and the width dimension can be aligned generally parallel to the transverse axis of the absorbent article. The term "generally parallel" as used herein refers to an angle within about 35 degrees or less of the referenced axis, and more particularly within about 20 degrees or less of the referenced axis.

The fastening components can comprise any refastenable fasteners suitable for absorbent articles, although desirably comprise mechanical fastening elements rather than adhesive fastening elements for improved performance. Suitable mechanical fastening elements can be provided by interlocking geometric shaped materials, such as hooks, loops; bulbs, mushrooms, arrowheads, balls on stems, male and female mating components, buckles, snaps, or the like. In particular embodiments, the fastening components and mating fastening components comprise hook-and-loop fastening elements. One skilled in the art will recognize that the shape, density and polymer composition of the hooks and loops may be selected to obtain the desired level of 10 securement between the fastening components and the mating fastening components. A more aggressive hook material may comprise a material with a greater average hook height, a greater percentage of directionally-aligned hooks, or a more aggressive hook 15 shape. *now expired*

As disclosed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/112,709, filed on December 18, 1998 by C. P. Olson et al. and titled "Absorbent Articles Having Differential Strength Refastenable Seam," the refastenable seam may include one or more main refastenable attachment zones and one or more enhanced refastenable attachment zones. The main and enhanced refastenable attachment zones may be constructed to provide differential levels of securement, and particularly augmented levels of securement 20 at locations which are subject to greater levels of separation forces. *now expired*

As disclosed in copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/112,775, filed on December 18, 1998 by C. P. Olson and titled "Absorbent Articles Having Hinged Fasteners," the refastenable seam may comprise individual fastening materials with narrow spacings therebetween. The narrow spacings provide a desirable hinge to improve 25 fit and securement of the fastening components. *now expired*

The disclosed absorbent articles are adapted to be worn adjacent to the body of a wearer to absorb and contain various exudates discharged from the body. The absorbent articles are desirably pre-fastened to provide a pant-like product for the user. The product can then be pulled on like a conventional training pant, and subsequently checked or removed with the ease of a diaper-like product. Moreover, the product may be applied like 30 a diaper rather than like a pant. Supplemental releasable fastening means such as

fastening components 82 and 83. For improved manufacturing performance, the width of the elastomeric side panels 34 in the front waist region 22 is equal to the width of the elastomeric side panels 134 in the back waist region 24. The width of the side panels 34 and 134 is represented in Figure 8 by arrow W and excludes the width of the support members 402.

The training pants 20, 300 and 400 can further include releasable side bonds (not shown) for improved reliability of maintaining the pant in a prefastened condition particularly when it is being pulled on or off over the hips of the wearer. Such releasable side bonds are desirably configured to be readily broken such that the caregiver can easily remove the training pant 20 after it has been soiled. The releasable side bonds desirably comprise ultrasonic point bonds. Absorbent articles including such releasable side bonds are further described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/100,574^{now USPN 6,287,287} titled "Disposable Absorbent Articles Having Passive Side Bonds And Adjustable Fastening Systems" filed June 19, 1998 by Elsberg, which is incorporated herein by reference.

As described herein, the various components of the training pants 20, 300 and 400 can be integrally assembled together employing various types of suitable attachment means, such as adhesive, sonic and thermal bonds or combinations thereof.

It will be appreciated that details of the foregoing embodiments, given for purposes of illustration, are not to be construed as limiting the scope of this invention. Although only a few exemplary embodiments of this invention have been described in detail above, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that many modifications are possible in the exemplary embodiments without materially departing from the novel teachings and advantages of this invention. Accordingly, all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of this invention, which is defined in the following claims and all equivalents thereto. Further, it is recognized that many embodiments may be conceived that do not achieve all of the advantages of some embodiments, particularly of the preferred embodiments, yet the absence of a particular advantage shall not be construed to necessarily mean that such an embodiment is outside the scope of the present invention.